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TACOMA'S SWEEPING CLAIM.

The city of Tacoma, through the Tacoma Ledger, asserts that it is "the home city of the northwest," says the Call. It challenges, by means of an array of figures, the cities of Portland, Seattle and Spokane to contest this claim. To be in the city of homes is surely something very desirable. A stable population is thereby insured and a high degree of civic pride, relatively, ought to result from stability. There is little doubt that the cities of the northwest will at once take up the controversy that is thus opened and the outcome will be that the attentive observer will learn much that will influence him in the choice of a home if he has any desire to locate in the northwest. From this point of view there is a business interest concerned that will lend keenness and piquancy to the men who shall take up the endgels to prove that the "homeland" is theirs and not Tacoma's.

That there may be no misunderstanding relative to the exact significance of Tacoma's averment, a few statistics are supplied from the columns of the Ledger. In the returns of the last United States census, as the figures are construed from the Tacoma aspect, 84.8 per cent of Tacoma's total population was found to be in private families; Spokane was second in this respect, having in families 80.7 per cent, while Portland had 75.1 per cent and Seattle but 67.9 per cent. The average size of the families in Tacoma, Portland and Seattle was 4.2 persons. Spokane, so the figures would seem to prove, had but 3.9 persons to a family on the average. By the same census, according to the same analyst of statistics, the school attendance at Tacoma amounted to 18 per cent of the total population, at Seattle to 12.6 per cent, at Spokane 16.6 per cent, and at Portland 14.7 per cent.

Since the United States census figures were made up Tacoma has had a new source of information about its own population, the facts being supplied by a just-issued city directory. This contains the names of 26,962 individuals, excluding all names of firms, corporations, streets, buildings and the like, which appear in the list. Married women and children are not named in the directory. The multiple applied at Tacoma to find from the directory the actual population is 2½. This makes the present population of Tacoma 67,405. The same multiple is employed by directory makers in rating the other northwestern cities.

Reiterating that Tacoma is the home city, the Ledger asserts that Tacoma had, at the last census, the smallest population of male residents of full age to the total population, and the largest ratio of married women and children of any northwestern community. In fact, the males 21 years and more old in Tacoma were but 37.1 per cent of the total population, leaving nearly two-thirds to be classed as legal infants. At Portland the males 21 years and more old were 42.2 per cent, at Seattle, 48.9, at Spokane 40.6 per cent.

If Tacoma can make good its statement that it is now the "home city" among its compeers, it will appear from the statistics of relative juvenility that it has good reason to expect a continuation of its ascendancy in this particular, for young people are naturally the most numerous home builders.

THE BURDEN OF A WORLD'S FAIR.

The Saturday Evening Post believes that those cities which held world's fairs are municipal martyrs—that they make extensive sacrifices for the betterment of humanity. Discussing the matter of expositions and their general failure to "pay," the Post says:

It appears evident that the world's fair at St. Louis, like most other exhibitions of the kind, is not going to be a financial success. It has met its obligations promptly; but the secretary of the treasury thought it necessary to warn the fair authorities that if they fail to meet the installments on the government loan as they fall due he will take possession of the box offices and do his own collecting.

This foreboding is painful, but it does not justify the hasty conclusion that world's fairs are played out.

The public school system pays no dividends, yet it is not regarded as an unprofitable institution. The consular service is not self-supporting, but it is a productive national investment. Perhaps the people who profit least by a world's fair are those that live in the city in which it is held. Their expectations are the highest and the most bitterly disappointed. Their business is feverishly stimulated for a year and then left in the dumps. Labor is attracted in mobs and stays stranded. Real estate prices soar and then collapse.

The truth is that a modern international exhibition is too big a thing for an ordinary city to handle comfortably. It crowds the inhabitants out of doors—it is like Gulliver in Lilliput, or an elephant in a flat. The common idea is that the exposition city is receiving a favor at the general expense. In reality it is sacrificing itself for the general good. It puts up most of the money to start the enterprise, furnishes the bulk of the admission fees to keep it going, and submits to all the disturbance of business and general demoralization that accompany the monstrous intruder. The nation sits at a comfortable distance and enjoys the wonderful spectacle for a comparatively trivial contribution, and then the national trade and industry gather in the benefits that follow. Thus Philadelphia offered herself up for the general welfare in 1876, Chicago in 1893 and St. Louis in 1904. And each city was convinced at the time that it was promoting its own interests. It is part of nature's shrewd scheme of implanting an instinct in the individual that fools him into sacrificing himself to the race in the belief that he is pleasing himself. It is an instinct of this kind whose vigor has perpetuated every living species and whose impairment by too much enlightenment brings "race suicide."

PARIS FAVORS WOOD PAVEMENTS.

European cities have had a longer experience in the use of various paving materials than American municipalities. More than 50 years ago the larger European cities arrived at the point in municipal development where comfortable and convenient pavements, regardless of first cost, were deemed necessary.

Some interesting facts in regard to Paris pavements are stated by John W. Alvord, C. E., in the July number of the Municipal Journal and Engineer. It appears that 50 years ago all the Paris pavements were either cobblestones, block stone or macadam. Paris has tried asphalt and close-fitting, rectangular wooden blocks. Asphalt has been laid in Paris since 1837, and present methods of asphalt paving were introduced in 1855. The wooden block pavement was not introduced until 1881.

The tendency in Paris now is to substitute asphalt and wooden blocks for stone blocks and macadam. The preference is for wood blocks rather than asphalt. The use of wood pavements in Paris is decidedly on the increase, and it is the favorite because it is smooth, noiseless, agreeable to drive over, easily kept clean, and is readily relaid when worn out.

Asphalt, in the opinion of the French engineers, has many of these advantages, but the serious disadvantage of being slippery when wet. Its use is generally restricted in Paris to narrow streets, less open to the sun and winds, while wood is laid on the broad avenues and boulevards. In Paris, at all seasons, horses are shod smooth, which diminishes the wear on both asphalt and wood, but makes a slippery pavement undesirable.

Paris bestows an unusual amount of care upon its street pavements, which are in charge of intelligent and highly-educated officials. The admitted superiority of Paris pavements to all others in the world justifies a careful study of Paris methods by American municipalities.

An information bureau has recently been inaugurated in connection with the University of Paris, and is considered an excellent innovation. The bureau will afford information on all matters connected with higher education in Paris, whether in government or private institutions. Those who, in this country or elsewhere, are contemplating entering the university, and who have spent hours in trying to derive some tangible ideas from calendars and class syllabuses, will appreciate the useful purpose which would be served by a bureau of this character.

Dowie says he does not care to go to heaven, as he thinks he could accomplish more by going to hell and fighting the devil. If he feels that way about it, we see no reason why he should leave Chicago.

Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis declares that perfection is the sure fruit of suffering. That is the only consolation we have in the pain we endure in reading Dr. Hillis' dissertations.

Russians have the consolation that if they lost Port Arthur the expense of removing dangers to navigation from the harbor will fall upon the Japs.

The old adage that you cannot keep a good man down received a shock when some vandal slashed Santos Dumont's balloon at St. Louis.

Russians are said to be expert chess-players. It seems to be Kuropatkin's next move.

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HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

LOTS OF BUGS IN THE MILK.

Seattle's Supply Pronounced to Be Absolutely Unfit for Use.

Seattle, Wash., July 16.—The King County Medical Society, after more than a month's hard work, has made public a startling condition of affairs, reporting that two-thirds of the milk sold from the dairies in Seattle is unfit for use and that if Seattle should adopt the Boston standard of temperature at 50 degrees and bacteria limited to 500,000 per cubic centimeter, the supply furnished the city would be shut off altogether.

Thirty-six samples of milk, gathered at random from dairy wagons found on the streets, were examined, and the committee of physicians reports that not one of the samples was fit for consumption, all being dangerous to health. Every sample examined for bacteria was found to have a temperature of more than 50 degrees. Above this temperature bacteria accumulates very rapidly, and in many cases they were found to exist in billions, instead of thousands, the safety mark established in Boston.

Formaldehyde, a preservative, was found to be in every sample. This is in violation of law. The pasteurizing method examined, showed that the work was imperfect, in that all the evidences of a purity treatment had disappeared and that the milk was left in the same impure condition as in its original form.

Milk was found to have been adulterated and that dirty water was used to do it. Filth was found in every sample.

The expose made in the report to the board of health will in all probability result in wholesale prosecutions of dairies. Many may be put out of business permanently, and others will be required to clean up and give bond that their milk will be kept pure, unadulterated and free from the use of preservatives.

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